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PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH's MESSAGE

TO THE SECOND CONGRESS OF HEROES, MODEL FIGHTERS AND GALLANT COMBATANTS OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMED FORCES

(c/o President Nguyen Huu Tho)

ON the occasion of the Second Congress of Heroes, Model Fighters and Gallant Combatants of the South Viet Nam People's Liberation Armed Forces, I send you my most loving kisses and warmly congratulate you on your outstanding achievements in the resistance to U.S. aggression, for national salvation.

The First Congress of Heroes in South Viet Nam held in 1965 was a congress of the victors of the U.S. aggressors' "special war." This time, it is the Congress of those who will defeat U.S. "local war" in carrying out the Political Programme of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation.

For more than twenty years now, the heroic South Vietnamese people and fighters, upholding forward the tradition of staunch and indomitable struggle of our people, have been fighting with boundless courage and persistence, overcome all hardships and made all sacrifices, determined to wrest back independence and freedom.

The pick of the nation, the heroes, model fighters and gallant combatants of the South Viet Nam People's Liberation Armed Forces have shown their loyalty to the country and the people, courage, intelligence, modesty, simplicity, mutual love and assistance, fearless of difficulties and hardships, resolved to fulfil all national salvation tasks entrusted them, thus contributing to the glorious revolutionary cause of our people.

The southern part of our country has brought forth outstanding heroes, model fighters and gallant combatants, because it is guided by the correct line and policies of the National Front for Liberation because it has as its defenders heroic collectives, the heroic South Vietnamese people and the heroic Vietnamese people as a whole.

I hope that you will not indulge in self-complacency because of your many victories, nor underestimate the enemy; on the contrary, you will endeavour to develop your forces, overcome your weaknesses and serve as a driving force to help everyone march forward and win new and more glorious victories.

The U.S. aggressors have sustained big failures but are still stubborn. They have not given up their scheme to carry on their aggression against the South, to continue bombing the North, and permanently divide our country. The resistance war of our entire people against U.S. aggression, for national salvation still has many difficulties and hardships ahead but our people will certainly defeat the U.S. aggressors and their henchmen to liberate the South, defend the North and eventually achieve the peaceful reunification of the country.

I am firmly convinced that under the glorious banner of the National Front for Liberation, our South Vietnamese compatriots and fighters, with their valiant spirit and their rich experiences, will win still greater victories and bring the resistance against U.S. aggression, for national salvation, to complete success.

I send you my affectionate greetings and urge you to be resolved to fight.

UNCLE HO
September 1967

SOUTH VIETNAM

THE PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMED FORCES ATTACK RELENTLESSLY:

- ☆ **11 Posts on Highway 4 Southwest of Saigon Stormed on the Night of Oct. 12: 600 Enemy Soldiers Killed or Wounded.**
- ☆ **Operation to Clear Highway 4 Foiled: 500 Enemy Troops Put out of Action (Oct. 3—6).**
- ☆ **Base of Puppet Armoured Regiment 7 in Hue Overrun: 500 Enemy Soldiers Killed or Wounded (Oct. 3).**
- ☆ **Chau Phu Military Sector in Chau Doc Town Wiped Out, the Town Controlled by the People's Liberation Armed Forces for Two Hours (Oct. 11).**

NORTH VIETNAM

PEOPLE'S WAR:

Oct. 14: a Platoon of Old Militiamen in Thanh Hoa Province Downed a *Skyhawk*: THE 2,400th U.S. PLANE DOWNED OVER THE D.R.V.N.

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The 18 old militiamen who have downed a Skyhawk with 92 bullets

D.R.V.N. FOREIGN MINISTRY STATEMENT ON THE SERIOUS SITUATION IN THE DEMILITARIZED ZONE

THE spokesman of the Foreign Ministry of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam issued on Oct. 14, 1967 the following statement on the extremely serious situation obtaining in the Demilitarized Zone and its periphery:

"The U.S. aggressors are launching round-the-clock attacks with B.52 and other kinds of aircraft and long-range artillery against villages and hamlets in the Demilitarized Zone and its periphery. Vinh Linh, an area of about 800 square kilometres, was subjected to over 4,000 bombing raids in July, August and September this year — twice as many as in the previous three months and nearly 40 percent of the total number of U.S. air attacks against North Viet Nam. In September 1967 alone, B.52s made 87 bombing raids on the area. The U.S. aggressors have boasted that the quantity of bombs and shells they used in this area was the biggest in war history.

"All the 23 villages in Vinh Linh area have been attacked; the district capital of Ho Xa and 14 villages have been virtually razed to the ground; the villages to the West were completely devastated. It is obvious that the U.S. imperialists want deliberately to exterminate every populated sector of this area.

"Of late they have considerably increased infantry, motorized and artillery forces and built more fortifications close to the southern part of the Demilitarized Zone.

"Together with the barbarous bombing of Hai Phòng and many other populated areas in North Viet Nam, the exterminating attacks on Vinh Linh area and the military build-up in the southern part of the Demilitarized Zone show ever more clearly the U.S. design to widen the war and prepare new and more brazen escalations.

"The extremely barbarous criminal acts perpetrated by the U.S. in the Demilitarized Zone and Vinh Linh area have grossly trampled upon the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam and international law.

"They constitute an insolent challenge to the world's peoples and the American people who are demanding that the U.S. stop its bombings and all other war acts against the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, end its aggression against South Viet Nam, and scrupulously respect the fundamental national rights of the Vietnamese people as recognized by the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam.

"The Foreign Ministry of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam energetically denounces the utterly savage schemes and acts of the U.S. imperialists in the Demilitarized Zone and Vinh Linh area.

"The U.S. must bear full responsibility for the consequences arising from their aggressive acts. The heroic Vietnamese people as a whole and the indomitable people of Vinh Linh in particular are resolved to deal well-deserved punishing blows at the U.S. aggressors and will certainly frustrate all their vicious manoeuvres."

A SCHOOL DESTROYED BY CO-ORDINATE-MAP BOMBING

By our special correspondent

THE bell tower of the ancient parish church rises high in the sky behind a distant bamboo hedge. The villages and hamlets of this end of Nam Ha province no longer look like islets in the immense expanse of water-logged paddies. They emerge from the light-green carpet of young rice-plants. Indeed, a dense irrigation network has done away with the one-summer-crop system and gives to the peasants here two harvests every year and, with these, a new life and fine prospects they never thought of for generations. But then...

YOUTH KILLED ON THEIR SCHOOL BENCHES

LITTLE Dinh Van Phu, with one leg broken, lay senseless after a brain haemorrhage. His life was in serious danger despite great cares. Like several of his school mates he was taken out of a heap of ruins in the very middle of his classroom. It was really heart-rending to look at the survivors: all of them were injured in the legs or chins. They had been struck by American bombs at their desks, blown up in the air and squeezed between pieces of furniture. Ngu who had lost both of her legs thus related the terrible moment: it was a gym period and as it was raining they remained indoors and learned theory. They attentively listened to the master when a flash flared up, followed by a thundering explosion. As she was still wondering what had happened, she saw the teacher and several of her friends sitting at the other end of the room hurled up into the air. She herself was wrapped in earth, caught between benches and desks, and tried to wriggle out as best as she could. Duc who had one leg broken was the first to succeed in getting out his head to call for help in the pelting rain.

Out of the 48 school children from 14 to 18 only 18 survived but were all wounded. Young teacher Nguyen Van Ke was killed on his desk, leaving behind his wife and 3 children. Almost nothing remained of Form 9-B of the Y Yen secondary school. Thus, youth of nearly the same age were massacred right on their school benches and with them were gone so many dreams and aspirations. Ty had no more hope of being admitted to the Fine Arts College in a near future; and his beautiful picture to adorn the class-room—now ruins—is also things of the past. Hoang Thanh Chu's flute no longer mingles its sweet sound with the creaking of bamboo trees. Gone also Pham Van Khue's melodious voice that his classmates used to enjoy in night festivals. Mai Thi Xuyen, that pretty girl who dreamt of becoming an engineer serving in her own native land, and her girl-friends Mai Thi Nhan, Nguyen Thi Tinh, too, are no more...

A SECONDARY SCHOOL IN THE MIDST OF WATER-LOGGED RICEFIELDS

THE Y Yen secondary school is one of the first of its kind to be built in a district of North Viet Nam during the first five-year plan (1961-1965). It could not exist in any district or even province under the former colonial rule, let alone in a remote place of the Red River delta province of Nam Dinh (now part of Nam Ha). And it is in the last few years, under American bombs and bullets that this school has reached a good standard, with 18 classrooms and 50 teachers. The unstinted assistance of the local authorities and population has enabled it to tide over many difficulties arising from evacuation to the countryside and become really an educational centre of the district. The people feel all the more proud of it since Y Yen was well-known as the most disinherited, the poorest of the four districts of Nam Dinh. Subjected now to water logging, now to drought all the year round, it could not afford to feed its population the bulk of which left their homes to earn a living in other provinces. 99 per cent were illiterate and nobody even went to a secondary school. On this score, the headmaster, Nguyen Cong Son, whose life is bound to that of the school and his native district, told moving stories. Before 1945 he had primary education only. In the resistance war against the French he was trained into a teacher for elementary education. After the restoration of peace he graduated at the Hanoi Teachers' Training College and was appointed headmaster of the secondary school in Y Yen. Having shown to the visitors to bomb craters, one of which dug in the classroom, Nguyen Long Son said: "One day earlier we had checked up the defence work. In this respect, this was the first class-room which has an earthen wall 2 metres wide and 1.5 metres high. All shelters and communication-trenches had fairly strong roofs. But the boys and girls were hit in the class-room while it was heavily raining and the sky covered with dark clouds in a densely populated region without the least "strategic" target apart from a parish church under Father Vu Xuan Ky, President of the Patriotic and Peace-Loving Catholics Liaison Committee.

THE SUFFERING OF A FATHER

PHAM QUANG VINH told us that he had personally witnessed the killing of his only son, Pham The Than, and his class-mates. He was then some 70 metres away, in his house which he had put at the disposal of the authorities to house Form 9-B the year before. He held that class-room in particular affection because it was attended by his son. Amidst the pelting of the rain he suddenly heard the roar of aircraft rushing in in next to no time. Several big explosions sent the disease-paralysed man to the threshhold. "My son and all the school children are hit by bombs," said Pham Quang Vinh. "I did my best to sit up and saw a thick cloud of dust wrapping the class-room and, a few seconds later, a razed ground besides a deep crater. I could not, but look at people coming round, with their spades and shovels. I clearly saw my son extracted from the ruins. I recognized that the white shirt that I had made for him at the beginning of term. I don't know why he put it on that morning, unlike his friends who all donned dark coloured clothes. I saw his body one hour later, when it had already stiffened." "My Lord, punish the assassins of catholics," Vinh added. At 18 Yen one witnesses not only the suffering and indignation of this catholic father, but the wrath of a whole population.

The schoolgirl Nguyen Thi Ngu, 16, wounded in the face and having both legs broken

The pupil Dinh Van Phu, 16, had a brain haemorrhage and a leg broken

Y Yen school bombed by U.S. aircraft

What remains of the school ←

INDOMITABLE PEOPLE

ALL that happened on Oct. 10, 1967 at 7.15 a.m. according to a plan worked out by the Pentagon. A class-room in a remote

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HOMAGE TO ERNESTO CHE GUEVARA

(June 14, 1928 — October 8, 1967)

"ON October 8, 1967, Comrade Ernesto Che Guevara valiantly sacrificed himself while fighting in Bolivia for a lofty revolutionary cause.

"For the people of Cuba and other revolutionary peoples in the world, Comrade Guevara has set a shining example of high revolutionary ardour, staunch fighting spirit and genuine proletarian internationalism, and of the devotion to the interests of the revolution. Che Guevara has devoted all his life to the struggle of all peoples against the imperialist aggressors, for independence and freedom.

"Being moved at the glorious death of Comrade Ernesto Che Guevara, the Vietnamese people condemn with indignation the reactionary ruling circles lackeys of the U.S. imperialists in Bolivia who have murdered Comrade Che Guevara.

"Comrade Guevara's death is a loss to the revolutionary movement in Latin America and to the struggle of the world's people against imperialism, for national independence, peace, democracy and socialism."

(Excerpt from Nhan Dan, *central organ of the Viet Nam Workers' Party)*

In the evening of October 19, 1967, a delegation of the Viet Nam Workers' Party, National Assembly and Government of the D.R.V.N., representatives of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front, the Ministry of National Defence, the Viet Nam-Cuba Friendship Association, the central and Hanoi public services and mass organizations, called on the Cuban Embassy to condole with it on the death of Comrade Ernesto Che Guevara.

The delegation of the Viet Nam Workers' Party, the National Assembly and the Government of the D.R.V.N. was composed of Truong Chinh, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Workers' Party, Pham Van Dong, Premier, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Viet Nam Workers' Party, and other Party and State leaders.

Nguyen Huu Tho, President of the Presidium of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and Huynh Tan Phat, Secretary General of the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam N.F.L. have sent to Cuban Premier Fidel Castro Ruz and the O.L.A.S. Permanent Committee messages expressing their deepest condolences.

MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCES

Hanoi, October 18, 1967

To the Central Committee of the Cuban Communist Party
HAVANA

WE are much grieved to learn that Comrade Ernesto Che Guevara has fallen in the field of honour.

On behalf of the Vietnamese people and the Viet Nam Workers' Party, we send to you, the people and fraternal Communist Party of Cuba and Comrade Che Guevara's family our heartiest condolences.

Comrade Che Guevara's death is a great loss to the peoples of Cuba and Latin America as a whole. But we are firmly convinced that the peoples of Cuba and Latin America will turn their affliction into strength and fight with might and main to win greater successes for their revolutionary cause.

The Central Committee of the Viet Nam Workers' Party

SOLIDARITY BETWEEN THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE PEOPLE AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

ACCORDING to *Giai Phong* Press Agency, with a view to meeting the urgent needs of the friendly relations between the South Vietnamese and American people, and of the close ties between the movement of the American people against the U.S. government's war of aggression in South Viet Nam and the South Vietnamese people's resistance war for national salvation, on October 16, 1967, the South Viet Nam People's Committee for Solidarity with the American People was founded with pharmacist Ho Thu as its Chairman.

The Committee set for itself the following objectives:

— To consolidate and develop the friendship between the South Vietnamese and American people;

— To unite and co-ordinate with the American people in the struggle for peace, justic, freedom, democracy and civil rights and in demanding that the U.S. Government end its aggression against Viet Nam.

Regarding its programme of action the Committee issued a communiqué mentioning its tasks as follows:

1) To create favourable conditions for the promotion of mutual understanding between the South Vietnamese and American people in all spheres: history, national literature and art and movement of struggle, thus enabling the American people to grasp the true nature of the U.S. Government's policy of aggression in South Viet Nam as well as the correct line of resistance for national salvation of the South Viet Nam N.F.L.

2) To establish relations and contacts with all progressive organizations and individuals in the U.S. now struggling for peace, justice, freedom, democracy and civil rights, and wishing to acquaint themselves with the situation in Viet Nam and to join the Vietnamese people in demanding that the U.S. Government end its war in Viet Nam.

3) To mobilize and encourage the South Vietnamese people to co-ordinate their action with the American people's struggle, in the vital interests of both the Vietnamese and American people, to demand that the U.S. Government end its dirty war in Viet Nam.

4) To establish relations with and help all those progressive social organizations and individuals, personalities and intellectuals in South Viet Nam and all those armymen and personnel of the Saigon puppet administration who wish to acquaint themselves with the American people's struggle and join the entire people of South Viet Nam to co-ordinate with the American people in demanding an end to the U.S. government's war in Viet Nam.

5) To give maximum assistance to the American personnel and servicemen in South Viet Nam who wish to understand the movement of struggle of the South Vietnamese and American people or who wish to return to their country or move to another place.

6) To broader its relations with all progressive organizations and individuals in all countries which approve and support the just struggle of the Vietnamese and American people.

The Committee will establish its permanent representations in Prague, Algiers and Hanoi to make contact with progressive organizations and individuals in the movement of the American people more convenient.

After its founding, the Committee issued an appeal, calling on people from all walks of life in South Viet Nam, in the supreme interests of the nation, "to strengthen their unity in the struggle against U.S. aggression." With regard to the American people, the Committee called on them "to promote their traditional love of genuine freedom and democracy, for the sake of U.S. honour and their own interests and for the noble internationalist duty of supporting the struggle of the Vietnamese people for national liberation."

The Committee also called on the forces in the world which stand for peace, independence, democracy and progress, and on the peoples of South Korea, Australia, New Zealand, the Philippines and Thailand to take more practical and positive action in support of the Vietnamese people, to mobilize, encourage and co-ordinate their action with the movement against the policy of aggression of the U.S. government and the complicity of the governments serving as U.S. statellites.

Message to the American People from the South Viet Nam People's Committee for Solidarity with the American People

THE South Viet Nam People's Committee for Solidarity with the American People which came into being on October 16, 1967 with a view to consolidating and developing the close relations between the struggle of the South Vietnamese people and that of the American people for the common interests of the Vietnamese and American peoples, extends its cordial greetings of solidarity to the American people.

We warmly hail your drive of struggle from October 16 to 21 aimed at strongly manifesting your determination to demand that the U.S. government put an end to its war in Viet Nam.

We highly value the American people's movement against the U.S. war in Viet Nam, and regard this movement as a just and valiant action conforming to morality, international law and the American people's traditional love for democracy and justice and as a support to our struggle for freedom and peace.

For one month now, many struggles have been launched in South Viet Nam cities by various strata of the people against the Saigon puppet administration's fraudulent election, to demand that the U.S. refrain from interfering in the Vietnamese people's internal affairs, to demand national sovereignty, peace and withdrawal of U.S. troops from South Viet Nam. On all battlefields the patriotic armed forces and people have recorded many new military exploits, inflicting heavy losses on the U.S., puppet and satellite troops in important bases of the U.S. such as Da Nang, Phu Bai, Con Tien and Bien Hoa.

Our struggle will certainly be more stubborn, and in co-ordination with your struggle it will certainly be capable of compelling the U.S. Government to put an end to its aggressive war in Viet Nam.

May the October 21 struggle mark a new development in the American people's movement for an end of the U.S. war in Viet Nam! We wish you brilliant success.

IN THE UNITED STATES

By Protesting Against the U.S. War in Viet Nam, the American People Struggle for Justice

Week of Protest Against U.S. War of Aggression Against Viet Nam Seething in 30 U.S. Cities

THE week of protest against the U.S. aggression in Viet Nam in the U.S. by the "National Mobilization Committee to End the War in Viet Nam" and other progressive organizations was organized from Oct. 15 to 21. The Anti-Draft Week was also held in this week.

Preliminary reports said that in the first two days, a nationwide anti-draft movement is seethingly spreading over 30 American cities such as Washington, New York, Boston, Los Angeles, Chicago, Portland, Kansas City, etc. Thousands of youth encircled the recruiting centres, burned or tore draft cards or returned them to the U.S. authorities.

Anti Viet Nam War Marathon Torch Race

ACCORDING to initial reports, the 3,000-mile Marathon torch-race

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SECOND CONGRESS OF HEROES, MODEL FIGHTERS AND GALLANT COMBATANTS OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMED FORCES

WITH THE DETERMINATION TO FIGHT AND TO DEFEAT THE U.S. AGGRESSORS, THE EMULATION MOVEMENT OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMED FORCES HAVE WON BRILLIANT VICTORIES

Excerpt from the report by TRAN QUOC VINH, Deputy Political Commissar of the South Viet Nam People's Liberation Armed Forces

THE great successes recorded by our army and people over the past two years are the results of the emulation movement of "Determination to Fight and Defeat the U.S. Aggressors," the results of the clear-sighted leadership of the N.F.L., the results of utmost efforts made by our army and people with a view to defeating the U.S. aggressors. They also testify to the inexhaustible fighting capability and the invincible strength of a heroic people.

Indeed, these two years of struggle against the "limited war" have been two years of unprecedented enthusiastic and large-scale emulation campaign in all theatres of operations, two years of resounding victories. Military successes have followed one another in both zones of the country.

The emulation movement aimed at fighting U.S. and puppet troops has surged ever higher with the pouring of G.I.'s and the growing fierceness of the war.

1. At the first congress, the N.F.L. Central Committee and the High Command launched in the army the emulation movement of "Determination to Fight and Defeat the U.S. Aggressors." It was done when Washington, defeated in the "special war," had been massively sending troops to save the puppet army; it was based on the determination of the N.F.L. Central Committee and the People's Liberation Armed Forces (P.L.A.F.) High Command who were convinced that since we had defeated U.S.-advised puppet troops, we would certainly enjoy every condition to defeat the U.S. expeditionary forces. This will of the leadership was fully grasped by our organizations and troops at all levels and rapidly became the will of the masses.

Immediately after the first congress, local organizations and military units highlighted examples of heroism, learnt fighting experiences and launched an emulation movement for the challenge banner proposed by the High Command.

At the beginning of 1966, Quang Tri and Thua Thien provinces launched the emulation movement of "Spring of Exploits" which brought about good results. From July on, fierce battles at Doc Mieu, Con Tien, Khe Sanh, on Highway 9, repeated attacks from La Vang to Hue and Quang Tri town have badly mauled U.S. Marines and struck panic into them. In the wake of their victories so far the army and people in Quang Tri and Thua Thien have thinned out some 100,000 U.S. troops to beat them.

In Central Trung Bo where U.S. expeditionary forces had first landed on May 14, 1965 the first guerilla gun shot at the mouth of Tra Bong River announced the new emulation movement; only a week later a closer-range combat was fought by a small P.L.A.F. group against a U.S. battalion at Nui Sam, and a successful P.L.A.F. attack on G.I.'s at Nui Thanh encouraged everyone to search and destroy U.S. troops.

Everywhere U.S. troops cams, anti-U.S. belts came immediately into being. On August 18, 1965, the army and people of Central Trung Bo valiantly checking a "sweep" once again defeated U.S. troops at Van Tuong, wiping out 900 G.I.'s, and destroying 23 tanks and 23 planes. While the Ap Bac victory had heralded the fiasco of the U.S. "special warfare" strategy, the Van Tuong victory clearly showed that our army and people were fully capable of defeating the U.S. "limited war." Following the Thuan Man victory, those at Plei Me, An Khe, particularly the resounding victories on Sa Thay River in 1966, brought U.S. troops into serious trouble.

In the last six months alone, Central Trung Bo had elected 405 "Gallant Anti-U.S. Combatants" and 107 "Gallant Anti-U.S. Units;" in the past two years, it had 1,318 "Gallant Anti-U.S. Combatants" and 575 "Gallant Anti-U.S. Units."

Southernmost Trung Bo inaugurated the "Determined to Win" campaign with the slogan: "Take the strategic hamlet as battlefield and the armed forces as a lever." In 1965, it put out of action 9,230 enemy troops, liquidated 7 companies and 31 platoons. In 1966 it put out of action 12,200 men (an increase by 36 per cent over 1965), put out of action 1 battalion, 18 companies, 72 platoons and a squadron of armoured vehicles; the number of planes shot down or destroyed on the ground increased 4 times, that of military vehicles 5 times compared with 1965.

In Eastern Nam Bo, U.S. troops have suffered telling blows beginning with the battles at Bien Hoa (Phuoc Thanh), An Diem (Ben Cat - Thu Dau Mot).

Anti-U.S. belts have developed with varied forms of combat, wiping out over one thousand G.I.'s in the last two months of 1965. Local units possessed as many as 1,080 "Gallant Combatants" of every class.

Learning from and emulating guerillas, our regular forces have repeatedly obtained great successes. On November 8, 1965, one unit wiped out for the first time a U.S. battalion at Dat Cuoc (War Zone D). In a battle at Bau Bang on November 12, 1965, Eastern Nam Bo set a new record by annihilating for the first time a U.S. task force made up of 2 infantry battalions and a squadron of armoured vehicles. During the 1966 Winter-1967 Spring campaign, it repeatedly recorded brilliant victories in a series of offensives and counter-offensives, particularly checking Operation *Junction City*, the so far biggest U.S. operation with its army corps strength. (14,000 enemy troops and 1,000 armoured vehicles put out of action).

Saigon - Gia Dinh began its struggle with the 5-day counter-raid operation at Di An which cost the Americans 150 casualties and a lot of weapons lost. Cu Chi, the "Iron Land of the Brass Wall," broke the large-scale U.S. operation waged by 8,000 G.I.'s from January 8 to 18, 1966 and held its first congress of "Anti-U.S. Combatants" by the defence works. It showed a new and great capability of guerilla warfare: small units together with the people combined armed struggle with political struggle and were able to defeat tens of thousands of G.I.'s and defend the villages; the ten famous experiences it drew from the struggle against the victory over U.S. aggressors contributed to stepping up the "Destroy the U.S. Aggressors" movement.

The attacks on Tan Son Nhat airbase, the *Victoria* and *Metropole* billets, on Long Tau River, the bombardment of the march past in the heart of Saigon (November 1, 1966) have made a deep impression on the people at home and abroad. Compared with 1965, in 1966 the number of enemy casualties increased 3 times (that of G.I.'s put out of action increased 7 times), that of armoured vehicles destroyed 10 times, that of U.S. planes downed or destroyed 6 times. In 1966, Saigon - Gia Dinh elected 1,159 "Anti-U.S. Combatants" of all categories.

Central Nam Bo boasted Ben Tre, homeland of the movement of simultaneous insurrections, and Ap Bac with its historic victory. It launched a big drive of emulation to kill the enemy and achieve exploits, to build armed forces under such slogans as "Determined to fight and defeat the U.S. aggressors," "Act in accordance with Uncle Ho's teachings" to improve the management of units. Central Trung Bo was a theatre much coveted by the U.S. aggressors who had not so far felt strong enough to occupy it. Learning experiences from other areas, it was prepared to face them. As soon as U.S. troops arrived in Long An and My Tho they were entangled in the anti-U.S. belts of Rach Kien, Binh Duc. Their attack on Thanh Phu (Ben Tre) cost them 1,400 U.S. and puppet casualties. Another 1,000 U.S. and puppet troops were put out of action on Ham Luong River.

Within six months, the enemy lost 2,540 men (among them 2,250 G.I.'s), 19 planes, 18 armoured vehicles, 4 motor launches in the anti-U.S. belt of Rach Kien. In the same period, 150 "Gallant Anti-U.S. Combatants" and to "Gallant Anti-U.S. Units" were elected.

In Western Nam Bo, as the enemy embarked upon the "limited war" and intensified their action of destruction, our army and people had been faced with a serious flood-submerging defence works and houses. However in the same period, our forces grew up vigorously and won more resounding victories. With the "Stick to the Meo Area" campaign, the local P.L.A.F. stabbed deep into Thot Not, Lai Vung, Tan Hiep to break the encirclement. They attacked the enemy, captured weapons, set up revolutionary bases, closely combined the "three spearheads" (armed struggle, political struggle, and propaganda work among enemy troops). They repeatedly launched offensives on Tam Binh, Chau Thanh, Tra Vinh and Phu Quoc. Guerillas kept attacking enemy patrol boats along the Mekong River, checking the enemy plan of cutting off our communications. In 1966, the number of enemy troops killed increased by 50 per cent compared with 1965, the number of units (from platoons to battalions) wiped out increased 2-3 times.

In two years, Western Nam Bo boasted 2,843 "Gallant Anti-U.S. Combatants" of all classes co-operating with combat troops, logistical services and various offices and brigades of young volunteers launched the "Everything for the Battlefields, Everything for Victory" movement, the "Search the Yanks to Destroy Them at the Front and Search the Work to Do in the Rear" movement, and other campaigns aimed at improving one's work, introducing innovation, raising production, overcoming difficulties, carrying out thrift and the "rely on your own power" spirit, meeting the ever growing needs of the struggle.

A weapon and ammunition workshop carried out its yearly plan with an increase of 23 per cent, raising its production from 100 to 500 per cent. In a sewing factory every worker makes 8 uniforms (even 40 for some ones) a day (formerly 5.5 uniforms a day).

The logistic service and the supply and transport committee secured a volume of supplies by far larger than in 1964, fulfilling and even overfulfilling the year's quota.

The military medical service introduced valuable technical innovations, reduced the period of treatment, limited mortality and promoted the revolutionary medical workers' political consciousness.

Overcoming hardships and difficulties, the transport service kept traffic open. Non-military services boasted many brilliant exploits. Under the hard conditions of war, almost all their organizations took part in the fighting to defend offices, depots, goods, wounded or invalid soldiers. All the six members of a transport and depot unit were elected "Gallant Anti-U.S. Combatants." Liaison agents, hospital nurses, young volunteers, civil cadres, members of production centres distinguished themselves by exploits, many of them were elected "Gallant Combatants."

The "Destroy the Enemy" emulation movement was enriched in the armed forces by other campaigns: that aimed at bringing about the habit "to go is to win, to fight is to wipe out entirely the enemy; to go is to win, to fight is to overrun a post or a strategic hamlet" put forth by the regular forces in Eastern Nam Bo, the "Three *Stick*" campaign (*stick* to the people, *stick* to the land and *stick* to the enemy, i.e. to close in upon him) in Quang Nam, campaign to learn from the examples of Ba Gia, of such outstanding fighters as Truong Van Hoa, Pham Van Coi, Nguyen Van Be..., campaign to improve youth organizations, military units... Such emulation surge contributed much to raising the quality of the P.L.A.F. so as to enable them to meet the needs of the situation and the fighting.

Each area, each unit had its own standard-bearer in the emulation movement: Quang Tri and Thua Thien provinces had Phong Dien district and Bui Ngoc Du squad; Central Trung Bo had 18 (later 20) standard-bearers in every field; Southernmost Trung Bo had Bac Ai which ranked first in plane-shooting and political struggle; Eastern Nam Bo had its Phu Loi Battalion (and its An Dien village; Central Nam Bo had Long An local troops, Nguyen Van Be and Giron Battalion; Western Nam Bo had Tay Do Battalion, Lau Van Liet, Vinh Long province; Saigon - Gia Dinh had its Cu Chi district, Pham Van Coi, Nguyen Van Lich...

Every typical example of progress was a new factor. It provided experiences of fighting and success, vivid lessons of leadership and command, and rich and various facts. Emulation prevailed in each area and each unit. Moreover, areas and units competed with one another while swearing brotherhood with one another (Nui Thanh with Dong Xoai to learn from Ba Gia; Long An with Quang Nam to learn from Binh Gia...), thus giving the movement a greater impetus and enhancing its quality.

2. Worthy of note was the fact that in the movement of "Determination to Fight and Defeat the U.S. Aggressors" the will to fight and to conquer

(Continued page 7)

Mrs. Nguyen Thi Dinh, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the People's Liberation Armed Forces among the heroes

The newly promoted heroes enter the meeting hall

Mr. Nguyen Huu Thu talking to the heroes

LICH, THE HEROINE

At the Second Congress of Heroes, Model Fighters and Gallant Combatants of the South Viet Nam People's Liberation Armed Forces, 47 heroes were elected, among them 4 women. One of the four was Lich, a daughter of the Paco national minority.

• • • • • •

BORN into a very poor family, Lich was sold by her parents to a rich family when she was but two years old. The child-slave led an extremely hard life: little food, inadequate clothing, hard work, ill treatment. When she was 16, she looked a child of 12. Yet, her master wanted to make her one of his concubines. When she refused, he resorted to force. After Diem came to power his troops came to the village, compelled the young to file their teeth, forced the people to supply forced labour and to attend "denounce-communists" sessions. Whoever opposed them was murdered. Lich greatly suffered, but she could do nothing better than go to the brook's bank and cry her eyes out.

One morning in 1959, she left her master's house and went home. But her parents did not dare to give shelter to her, although they felt great pity for their child. So she had to wander out into the world, trying to survive. It was then that the Revolution gave her refuge and protection. A new life came to her, a life closely bound with the revolution and the fight for the right to live.

Lich became the first woman in the guerilla unit of the Paco national minority. She learnt combat tactics and technique: how to watch out for the enemy's surprise raids, how to plant spikes, lay traps, how to defend herself and her people. She carried supplies for the people's armed forces. And after she was given a rifle by Uncle Vai, the hero of the Paco people, she began stirring up great trouble for the enemy, for she was an extremely calm and courageous fighter.

One night, she made a raid on an enemy post. After worming her way past the first watch-tower, crawling through the barbed wire entanglements and the spikefields, she reached the second watch-post. There she saw soldiers fast asleep. It would be easy to shoot them, but then it would be difficult to report results accurately to the command. So she woke them up: as the soldiers sat up and stretched themselves, yawning and bewildered, four carbine shots rang out. Four collapsed. Before the soldiers knew what it was all about, Lich had disappeared.

The harvest season was coming near. The enemy were preparing destruction and plunder. Although the traps had been laid, Uncle Vai wanted to stop the enemy right at the gate of their post. Two guerilla units were sent out for that purpose. Lich was among them. When they got close to the enemy post, Lich insisted so much that Uncle Vai had to agree to her taking up the nearest position to the enemy.

At dawn, enemy soldiers filed out of the gate. When the first one came within five metres, Lich opened fire. The soldier collapsed, his rifle falling quite close to the young woman. The other guerillas opened fire in their turn. Stunned by this close-range sudden attack, the enemy soldiers fled in disorder, whereupon the guerillas withdrew. When the soldiers had recovered their spirit and launched a pursuit, the guerillas had put a big distance between the enemy and themselves.

Unfortunately for Lich, a branch caught her carbine and caused it to fall on the ground. Although she was running very fast and the enemy were pouring a hail of fire at the guerillas, Lich did not hesitate to retrace her steps. Seeing her come in their direction, bare-handed, the soldiers thought she wanted to surrender herself to them, and shouted with pleasure. But soon the girl stopped, picked up her rifle, and quick as lightning, fired several shots in close succession at them. Availing herself of the confusion in the enemy ranks, she made a successful escape.

During the encirclement by the guerillas of the A Luoi airstrip and the A Sau and A Co posts, Lich's bold tactics made the enemy shake in their boots.

On one occasion, at the head of a guerilla unit, she penetrated through the enemy defence perimeter and got very close to the airstrip. For a whole night, together with her three comrades, she dug fieldworks without the enemy being aware of their presence. The guerillas worked with knives, for shovels would be too cumbersome. At dawn, everything was ready, but their hands were full of bruises and cuts.

The guerillas spent two full days lying low, suffering hunger and thirst, keeping tight watch over the enemy's activities on the airstrip, waiting for a more favourable opportunity.

At noon of the third day, they saw enemy soldiers boarding a *Dakota* transport, which slowly taxied to the runway. As the plane, heavily laden, took off, Lich snapped out an order: "Fire!" Four shots rang out. A fire broke out on the fuselage. The plane went out of control and crashed on a hillslope: 50 enemies met their death, among them an American colonel.

Following the example set by Hero Vai, Lich seldom waited for the enemy to come, but sought them out to annihilate them. On one occasion, enemy troops were conducting a plunder raid. Together with three comrade guerillas, Lich sneaked close to their bivouac at about noon. They hid in a bush about five metres from the enemy. Lich ordering her friends to hold fire. Only when the enemy gathered for lunch and she had spotted their commanders did Lich tell her comrades to get ready for the attack. Unfortunately, right at this moment, a guerilla inadvertently broke a dry branch. The guards, scared out of their wits, shouted, "The guerillas!" Lich immediately hurled a grenade in the midst of a group of soldiers and followed this up with a burst of her submachinegun, then ordered a withdrawal, which she covered with her fire.

When the enemy had recovered their spirit and saw that Lich was staying behind alone they went after her. When she reached the edge of the forest, Lich stumbled on a root and fell. But before the enemy could rush on her, she sprang back to her feet and, quick as lightning, fired away at them, stopping them dead. She returned unscathed to the guerilla base, with still one grenade left.

Courageous on the battlefield, Lich is hard-working in production. Wherever goes, she plants cassava and sugar cane for the local people. Going home on a one-day furlough, she planted for her mother 4,000 cassava slips.

Lich is the pride of the Paco national minority and also of the entire Vietnamese people, a shining example of Vietnamese revolutionary heroism.

SOUTH VIET NAM N.F.L. POLITICAL PROGRAMME WARMLY WELCOMED*

G. D. R.

ON October 3, 1967, Walter Ulbricht, First Secretary of the German United Socialist Party, declared: "The Political Programme of the South Viet Nam N.F.L. is a document of historic significance which is consistent with the interests of various sections of the South Vietnamese people. It is an outstanding political instrument to rally broader strata of the population in South Viet Nam in the struggle against the U.S. aggressors and their lackeys, for national liberation."

ALBANIA

ENVER Hodja, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Albanian Workers' Party declared, "The heroic struggle of the brother Vietnamese people is a splendid example of the strength and superiority of the revolutionary people's war... We hail the Political Programme of the South Viet Nam N.F.L. which reflects the iron will of the South Viet Nam people to carry through their just and heroic struggle despite all sacrifice."

ALGERIA

ON September 13, 1967, H. Boumediene Chairman of the Algerian Revolutionary Council, declared that he was ready to support the Political Programme of the South Viet Nam N.F.L. and stressed that he considered it to be the political programme of Algeria. He extolled the anti-U.S. struggle of the Vietnamese people for national salvation and regarded it as an example for all countries of the third world and a lesson for the imperialists. He stated with particular emphasis: "One of the reasons for the gradual deterioration of the relations between Algeria and the U.S.A., is the Vietnamese issue. Though her interests are impaired, Algeria will continue supporting the Vietnamese people."

CONGO (B)

THE Political Bureau of the National Revolutionary Movement in the Congo (B) organized on September 28, 1967 a meeting on Viet Nam during which the Political Programme of the South Viet Nam N.F.L. was warmly welcomed. Ognamy Maurice, member of the Political Bureau of the Movement pointed out, "The South Viet Nam N.F.L. is the sole genuine representative of the South Viet Nam people. The American aggressors will be defeated. The Congolese people are firmly convinced that the Vietnamese people will liberate and reunify their country."

U.A.R.

AT a ceremony held in Cairo on September 18, 1967 to welcome the South Viet Nam N.F.L. Political Programme, U.A.R. Vice Prime Minister Zakareya Mohieddine gave the assurances that the U.A.R. government and people continue to support the just struggle of the South Viet Nam people. He expressed his conviction of the certain victory of the South Viet Nam people.

GUINEA

ON October 3, 1967, Sekou Toure, President of the Republic of Guinea, declared: "We unreservedly support the Political Programme of the South Viet Nam N.F.L. The heroic and persevering struggle waged by the indomitable people of Viet Nam against the American imperialist aggressors for independence sets the most shining example to the peoples in the world."

MALAYA

THE Malayan National Liberation League declared on September 8, 1967, "The Political Programme of the South Viet Nam N.F.L. is a call on the 10 million people in the liberated zone accounting for fourfifths of the territory of South Viet Nam to give a great impulse to the people's war and to the 4 million people belonging to all the social strata of the people still living in the enemy-controlled areas—to unite more closely around the South Viet Nam N.F.L.; thereby turning it into the broadest existing united front against the enemy."

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

THE Asian, African and Latin American Peoples' Solidarity Organization, the World Federation of Democratic Youth, the International Association of Journalists, and the International Union of Students declared they wholeheartedly supported the Political Programme recently adopted at the extraordinary congress of the South Viet Nam N. F. L. and would do their best to enhance further their active, concrete and efficient solidarity with the heroic struggle of the South Viet Nam people.

* See Viet Nam Courier *Nos 129, 130 and 131*

BY PROTESTING...

(*Continued from page 3*)

across the United States in protest against the Viet Nam war is going on. It ended in Chicago on October 8, 1967.

In that big city, O'Brien, an American youth, used this torch to burn his draft-card as a protest against the war in Viet Nam.

Addressing the crowd coming to welcome the Marathon torch-race, a member of the "Chicago Student Mobilization Committee" and the "Chicago Veterans for Peace" called on the American people to demand an end to the U.S. aggression war because in this unjust war the "U.S. has been condemned as a criminal by most people in the world."

The Marathon torch-race will end on October 21, 1967 in Washington with a mammoth meeting demanding that the U.S. government put an end to its aggressive war in Viet Nam.

A 500,000-Signature Petition for an End to the Bombing of North Viet Nam

ON October 9 the "Negotiation Now," an organization of the American people campaigning for the ending of the U.S. aggressive war in Viet Nam, handed to the American Congress a resolution signed by 500,000 people demanding that the U.S. government unconditionally end the bombing of North Viet Nam.

It pointed out that this was but one half of the number of signatures it wanted to collect and that it was going on with its attempt across the U.S. to reach the one million mark.

(*Continued page 7*)

Two More American Women Burned Themselves to Death in Protest Against U.S. Aggression in Viet Nam

ON Oct. 12, Miss Hiroko Hayasuki, a Japanese American, burned herself to death in San Diego, one of the U.S. bases from where U.S. troops are sent to fight in Viet Nam.

In Los Angeles, Florence Beaumont, an American woman burned herself to death on Oct. 15 to protest against U.S. aggression in Viet Nam and Johnson's candidature to the presidency in 1968. Miss Florence Beaumont is the seventh U.S. citizen and the fourth American woman who had resorted to self-immolation to protest Johnson's criminal war of aggression in Viet Nam.

These two self-immolations occurred at a time when the anti U.S. war movement is seething in the U.S. and millions of American people begin their week of protest against the U.S. aggressive war in Viet Nam.

The Vietnamese people bow before the valiant self immolation of Misses HIROKO HAYASUKI and FLORENCE BEAUMONT in defence of the just cause, and warmly welcome the struggle of the American people against the U.S. war of aggression in Viet Nam.

A PROGRAMME...

(*Continued from page 8*)

broad and progressive democracy, building up an independent and self-supporting economy, putting into effect the slogan "Land to the tillers," shaping a national and democratic culture and education; developing science and technology, promoting public health; caring for the interests and welfare of the workers, public employees and other working people; building up a strong liberation armed force of South Viet Nam so as to liberate the people and defend the fatherland; enforcing equality between men and women, and equality and mutual assistance among various nationalities in South Viet Nam; achieving unity and equality among the different religious communities.

In all its policies and lines the Front always links closely the following objectives: **independence, democracy, peace, neutrality and prosperity.** However, independence and democracy are the basis and also the premises of all these objectives. Without independence and democracy there cannot be genuine peace. Without independence and democracy there cannot be stable neutrality. Without independence and democracy, prosperity is only illusory or spurious.

On the forces of the revolution, the Political Programme points out: "The force that guarantees the fulfilment of the above task is our great national union. The South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation constantly stands for the unity of all social strata and classes, all nationalities, all parties, mass organizations, religious communities, patriotic-minded personalities, all individuals and all patriotic and progressive forces, irrespective of their political tendency, in order to struggle together against the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys, recover our sacred national rights, and build up the country."

Pointing out the truth that "the Front has strengthened its bases among the broad masses of people," the Programme creates more and more favourable conditions for all the people's forces to become effective and gloious forces fighting under the Front's banner of national and democratic revolution.

In addition, in order to rally still broader front forces hostile to the U.S. imperialists and their henchmen, the Political Programme points out: "The South Viet Nam N F L. is prepared to invite and welcome all patriotic forces and individuals who oppose the U.S. aggressors in all its ranks, and to shoulder together the common duties. It proposes that any force which, for one reason or another, does not wish to join its ranks, take joint actions with it against the common enemies — the U. S. aggressors and their lackeys."

AS the sole genuine representative of the South Vietnamese people, the N.F.L. is actually the organization in South Viet Nam most qualified and capable to chart a programme for the national and democratic revolution of the South Vietnamese people and to find a correct solution to the South Viet Nam problem.

The South Vietnamese people are now on the one hand fighting against the U.S. aggressors. On the other, responding to the call of the N.F.L. to take in hands the management of their own affairs and achieve step by step a national and democratic administration in various localities, they are devoting all their efforts and intelligence to the building, consolidation and development of the liberated area, their hard-won prize and the solid bulwark of the national and democratic revolution in South Viet Nam.

Heroic South Viet Nam is undertaking a tremendous and glorious dual task of combating and building. The workers, peasants, all other sections of the working people and the People's Liberation Armed Forces are constantly aware of, and acting in line with, their role as the revolutionary alliance in the movement. The intellectuals, the business circles and all patriotic personalities are also provided with facilities to contribute their share to the common cause and to enjoy deservingly independence and freedom.

All the nationalities, political parties, religious communities and organizations may work shoulder to shoulder within the Front or within the bloc of united action proposed by the Front to defeat the common enemy and reconstruction their beloved native land.

WITH THE DETERMINATION...

(*Continued from page 5*)

the title of "Gallant Anti-U.S. Combatant" prevailed not only in the P.L.A.F. but also in the broad masses of population.

The U.S. aggressors had not expected that far from subduing us with the pouring of G.I.'s, they only succeeded in creating new conditions for our army and people to achieve exploits, to show their fighting force and their national spirit. Since each of us had inherited our forefathers' boiling blood and gone through twenty years of struggle against oppression, the "Destroy the Yanks" campaign was rapidly adopted by people of all strata and of all ages.

One combatant said: "Should I not fight the Yanks. I would have to hire myself as a servant for the rest of my days." Such a word reflected in a vivid way the national and the class character of our people's struggle. Many a mother lulling her baby to sleep would say: "Grow up rapidly, darling, to fight the aggressors with your uncles and aunts." She expressed the dream, the legitimate aspirations and the determination of our people.

Inspired with a great determination and a deep hatred, many P.L.A.F. units having not yet met U.S. troops, learnt experiences from some units which had already fought the G.I.'s: they searched engagements with U.S. troops to understand them, appraise their strength and weaknesses, give concrete contents and measures to the emulation movement and develop it further. People remarked: "The Yank is tall and is an excellent target for our snipers. He is silly, we can beat him easily." Said 17-year-old Tran Thanh Hiep, "With hatred, a little boy can kill a Yank. With a bayonet and a bullet, you are sure to kill him." In an engagement, he killed three G.I.'s with his bayonet. Such a heroic appraisal of the relation of forces between us and the Americans testified to our people's revolutionary spirit.

On November 20, 1965, to further develop the emulation "Destroy the U.S. Aggressors" movement, the High Command launched a campaign for the titles of "Gallant Anti-U.S. Combatant" and "Gallant Anti-U.S. Unit." The words "Gallant Anti-U.S. Combatant" became immediately dear and attractive to all strata. to the P.L.A.F. as well as to the broad masses. It was by no means a vain honour but a symbol of patriotism, of revolution, of our people's firm determination to resist aggression. With its concrete norms, it was conformable to the aspirations of every patriot, it was suitable for the efforts of everybody. It was the reason why the movement extended so rapidly. Everyone inquired about the norms of the title, proposed fighting plans, pledged to fight the Americans, "borrowed Americans" from other combatants to compete for the glorious titles. The struggle against the Americans became a reason of life and a way of living of our army and people. Like the slogan "Sat Tha" under the Tran dynasty (13th century), the title "Gallant Anti-U.S. Combatant" appealed them to search and destroy the enemy.

In March 1966, the P.L.A.F. Political Department created six more titles to confer on the best combatants, thus giving a new impetus to the movement which prevailed not only in the army but also in the broad masses. The titles were also awarded to middle-aged farmers, combatant-sponsoring mothers, young mothers, boys and girls aged 10. Ba Ni of Cu Chi was twice "Anti-Tank Fighter;" a woman was elected "Valiant Mother Combatant" in the anti-U.S. belt of Rach Kien (Long An). Ngang, 52, of Tay Ninh blew up three M.113 amphibious carriers by exploding mines; Ho Van Men, 14, of Lai Thieu waged 6 engagements, 4 of them with mines and grenades, putting out of action 75 U.S. and puppet troops; little Doan Van Luyen killed a number of G.I.'s greater than the years of his age, little Le Van Hai seized an enemy rifle, annihilated 3 armoured vehicles, achieved with his unit brilliant exploits in two attacks in which 200 G.I.'s were put out of action. Ut A. 62, of Cu Chi present at this congress, stuck to his village to fight, annihilating 3 armoured vehicles, Trep, a 17 year-old girl, wiped out 6 G.I.'s and an armoured vehicle.

The holding of "Congresses of Gallant Anti-U.S. Combatants" during the fighting was a good stimulant. The first congresses of this kind in Central Trung Bo (November 1, 1966) and Cu Chi (Feb. 7, 1966) were of high significance.

At present, these congresses aimed at highlighting exploits, encouraging our combatants and exchanging experiences have been organized everywhere and become a common and good ideological feature in the P.L.A.F. Thanks to them, our army and people in anti-U.S. belts have acquired richer and richer fighting experiences. Effective anti-U.S. belts have encircled U.S. troops immediately after the latter's arrival. Rach Kien (Long An), Binh Duc, Long Hung (My Tho). In co-ordination with the "Destroy the Enemy and Achieve Exploits" movement, the broad masses of people, particularly young and old women, girls, have struggled directly against U.S. and satellite troops. Holding firm the banner of justice, fully aware of the weakness of the neo-colonialist cause, our people acting as victors have more than once stayed the enemy's cruel hands to protect their lives and properties. The struggle of our compatriots in cities and towns demanding the dismissal of Thieu and Ky, traitors to the country, and the withdrawal of U.S. troops has been waged in close co-ordination with military successes in every theatre of operations bringing the enemy to a stalemate and showing the capacities and strength of our people.

* In the 17th century, the Mongol feudals, then controlling the major part of Europe and Asia, sent three expeditionary forces to Viet Nam but were repelled. To show their determination to fight the enemy, General Tran Hung Dao's soldiers tattooed the words "Sat That" (Death to the Mongols) on their arms.

Here and There in the D.R.V.N.

THE Forestry College has just held a ceremony of graduation for the first batch of 50 engineers in forestry. The new engineers include 9 highlanders.

21 part-time students just graduated engineers at the College of Aquatic Products. All are outstanding cadres from various public organs.

106 assistant doctors newly graduated at the medical workers' school in Nam Ha just went to work in various villages of the province.

IN the past three years, over 10,000 scientific workers and technicians in Hai Phong have been trained in engineering, electricity, chemistry, ship building, navigation, aquatic products, agriculture.

This is one and a half as many as in the period before U.S. war escalation in North Viet Nam.

60 hydraulic pump stations have been completed in Hoa Binh province, more than made of local materials. These stations are not cumbersome, suitable to terraced ricefields, and can bring water up from 5 to 10 metres.

IN September 1967 when the U.S. aggressors launched fiercest attacks against Hai Phong, the workers of the *September 23* shipyard fulfilled their September plan within 10 days.

22 establishments of chinaware have been set up or improved in 13 provinces and towns in North Viet Nam, thus meeting the local need in these articles.

100,000 improved farm implements, machine-tools and means of transport were turned out in Quang Binh province in the third quarter of 1967. The gross output value increased 60 percent compared with the corresponding period of 1966.

U.S. A 4D JET BROUGHT DOWN BY 18 OLD MILITIAMEN WITH 92 BULLETS

ON Oct. 14, 1967, the 2,400th U.S. planes was shot down over North Viet Nam. What surprises many people is that this plane was grounded by 18 old men in a village of Hoang Hoa district, Thanh Hoa province.

Anyone who had closely followed the trying days in which they underwent training and did battle, after an all-women platoon of militia of Hau Loc, same province, had knocked out an A-4D jet (June 16, 1967), would not trouble himself much about that.

Upon learning that this woman platoon had killed a U.S jet, Le Van Hoy, an old militiaman of Hoang Hoa, Thanh Hoa province, was full of joy, but could not help pondering over this event. Since those women could do such a spectacular thing, there was no reason why the old folks could not mete out punishment to the air intruders, thus playing their share in the fight against the U.S. aggressors to save the country. Old villagers then got together and took up the matter. With the approval of the village militia command, a platoon of white-haired militiamen was set up at village X., Hoang Hoa district, Thanh Hoa province, with Old Hop as its leader and Old Thuy, its political instructor. Summer had gone. Everyday, on their way to the fields, the villagers saw these old men undergo training tirelessly and felt pity for them. Recently in a general review held by the militia command of the district almost all members of the platoon were rated excellent. Our old men were full of joy, a joy shared by all their co-villagers.

The platoon took the oath of allegiance on Aug. 29, 1967. Two days later came its baptism of fire. Our old men opened up intensively and succeeded in protecting the lives and property of the villagers. But they scorned to kill. They sat down to draw experience. Old Hop and Old Thuy criticized themselves for their poor command and their choice of the time to open up. Self-criticism was also made by each squad on its inadequacies in selecting the target or taking sight. Each member and each squad tried to find out shortcomings. The whole platoon started a new training programme. Each squad tried to overcome its own shortcomings and each member exerted out efforts to discharge satisfactorily his task.

On Oct. 14, as usual, our old men carried their weapons, climbed upward grades and took up position. Rains which poured down the last few days made the pathway slippery, but they were not lax in their duties. The enemy plane came. They set out to improve the camouflage of their gun emplacement then resumed training.

It was noon. The sun was at its zenith. 50-year-old Te, known as the sharpest eyes of the platoon, spotted the enemy plane. A flight of U.S. aircraft was flying in the direction of the village. The order went out and the whole platoon was quick in battle array. Four A-4D's flashed in; two of them made a pass over the village while the remainder cruised in a wide circle over it. They were far beyond firing range. Old Hop ordered his mates to hold their fire. These two planes made a second pass. The whole battleground remained still. At their third pass, both nosed up. Old Hop, in his brown pyjama and with an anti-splinter straw-plaited hat on, stood erect and shouted: "Let's avenge our children! The enemy planes must be brought down!"

Automatically, those old hands took hold of the guns. All eyes kept a close watch of the enemy runs. Trigger-fingers were at the ready.

A jet swooped down on the target area. Through the gunsights, the old militiamen saw the lead plane nose dive. "Fire!" Old Hop shouted the order. At the same time he beat the gong to make sure that the whole platoon was aware of the go-signal. Bursts of fire made a din on the ground. A flash was seen from the fuselage of the A-4 and another erupted on one of its wings. The plane belched out a trail of black smoke. It lost balance, tried to slam away but crashed against the sea, sending up a tall column of water. The air marauder had been punished. 92 bullets from conventional infantry weapons had cut it down.

Earlier, on June 16, 1967, an A-4D jet had been downed by an all-women militia platoon. On Oct. 14, another jet of the same type was knocked out by 18 old militiamen. Those who perpetrated crimes could never go unpunished. U.S. air supremacy was debunked because of its criminal and immoral mission.

Here and There in the D.R.V.N.

(*Continued from page 6*)

A School Destroyed...

(*Continued from page 2*)

locality could not possibly be mistaken for a military target. The carpet-bombing aimed obviously at striking panic into the population in an entire district. In defiance of the enemy's criminal scheme, the Y Yen authorities and people are determined to maintain their beloved school. All the other classes continue functioning with reinforced A.A. defence measures. The room for Form 9-B will be rebuilt on the same foundation and schoolchildren from other classes will come to restore this class-room together with the survivors.

If for the American air marauders, this school is a chosen target, for the people of Y Yen it constitutes the rallying point of their wrath and determination to resits the barbarous aggression. Everywhere in the district along the lanes and in the fields, rings the motto "Avenge the secondary school-children, down more U.S. planes and achieve the 5-ton-rice target!" Y Yen has already shot down many planes and has just brought in a bumper summer rice crop (1,06 tons per hectare) still unknown in its history with which record it ranks first as summer-crop producing area in Nam Ha province.

New issue of

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— PHOUKOUT STRONGHOLD

— PHOUKOUT, LE PISTON - FORTERESSE

— L'IMPERIALISME AMERICAIN, SABOTEUR DES ACCORDS DE GENEVE DE 1962 SUR LE LAOS

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32 Hai Ba Trung, Hanoi — D.R. Viet Nam

A PROGRAMME OF NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC REVOLUTION IN SOUTH VIET NAM

THE Political Programme of the N.F.L. is fully consonant with the aspirations and revolutionary interests of the South Vietnamese people. It is a political programme for the national and democratic revolution in South Viet Nam today.

The character of the national and democratic revolution finds unequivocal expression in the essential points defining the enemies of the revolution, the tasks and objectives of the revolution and the component forces of the revolution.

As regards the enemies of the revolution, the Political Programme points out: "The most dangerous enemies of our people at present are **the U.S. imperialist aggressors and their lackeys — the traitorous puppet administration.**" The Political Programme forcefully disposes of the fallacious contentions of the U.S. imperialists and denounces to the world the latter's scheme "to turn the southern part of Viet Nam into a new-type colony and a military base in an attempt to prolong the partition of our country and to eventually conquer the whole of Viet Nam and impose their domination throughout Indo-China and South-East Asia."

At the same time the Political Programme exposes the true nature of the Saigon puppet administration which everyone knows is composed of the most reactionary compradore capitalists, tyrannical landlords and political careerists: "It is only a clique of traitors, an instrument for the U.S. imperialists to enslave the South Vietnamese people, prolong the partition of our country and further the U.S. war of aggression."

Concerning the tasks and objectives of the revolution, the Political Programme reads: "The present tasks and objectives of the South Vietnamese people in the struggle for national salvation are as follows: **to unite the entire people, resolutely defeat the U.S. imperialists' war of aggression, overthrow their lackeys, the puppet administration, establish a broad-based national democratic coalition administration, build an independent, democratic, peaceful, neutral and prosperous South Viet Nam, and eventually achieve the peaceful reunification of the fatherland.**"

The gist of these tasks and objectives is consistently reflected in the concrete policies on the reconstruction of South Viet Nam, on the reestablishment of normal relations between South and North Viet Nam with a view to proceeding towards the peaceful reunification of the country as well as in the foreign policy of peace and neutrality mapped out in the Political Programme. All the guiding principles for the policies and lines laid down in the Political Programme are basic principles of the national and democratic revolution. Most obvious of all is the determination "**to foil the U.S. imperialists' policy of aggression, overthrow their lackeys, the puppet administration, and establish a broad-based national democratic coalition administration.**" All the spearheads of the revolutionary offensives are aimed at wiping out the cruel U.S. aggressors and "driving them out of our borders and wresting back national independence and sovereignty, abolishing the disguised colonial regime established by the U.S. imperialists in South Viet Nam, overthrowing the puppet administration, hireling of the United States." The Political Programme declares that the Front "does not recognize the puppet 'national assembly,' a creature of the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys; and undertakes to abrogate the 'constitution' and all anti-national and anti-democratic laws enacted by the U.S. imperialists and the puppet administration."

All efforts in construction are directed at building a

(*Continued page 7*)

South Viet Nam guerillas in ambush

SOUTH VIET NAM

THE PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMED FORCES ATTACK RELENTLESSLY

TAN AN — CHO LON

11 Posts on Highway 4 Southwest of Saigon Attacked on Oct. 12: 600 Enemy Soldiers Killed or Wounded

IN the wake of their victories since summer, the People's Liberation Armed Forces (P.L.A.F.) simultaneously attacked at 1.30 a.m. on Oct. 12, 1967 11 enemy positions of the enemy defence line 13km long on Highway 4, southwest of Saigon, *Giai Phong* Press Agency reported.

The P.L.A.F. neatly wiped out 1 U.S. artillery battalion about 1km from Ben Luc district town, destroyed 10 artillery pieces of various types (including 6 175mm, 155mm and 105mm cannons), 38 military vehicles (including 6 armoured vehicles) and 52 barracks and ammunition dumps.

At the Go Den townlet, the P.L.A.F. put out of action nearly 3 companies of puppet Battalion 4, Regiment 50, Division 25, including the battalion staff. A group of "pacification cadres" was also badly mauled.

At the headquarters of puppet Regiment 50, Division 25, the P.L.A.F. completely controlled the battlefield, and after some minutes' fighting, knocked out over 50 soldiers, destroyed 2 105mm cannons, and all the enemy military equipment storage.

The P.L.A.F. controlled Ben Luc townlet through the night and inflicted heavy losses on 2 "civil guard" companies in Tan Buu and Phuoc Loi.

According to still incomplete figures, the enemy sustained heavy losses on Highway 4: 600 troops were killed or wounded (including nearly 200 G.I.'s), 12 artillery pieces of different calibres and 38 military trucks destroyed and large quantities of munitions and military equipment seized.

In co-ordination with the battle on Highway 4, in Loc Giang position, Duc Hoa district, 25 km west of Saigon the P.L.A.F. stormed and heavily battered 4 enemy companies, destroyed 6 armoured carriers and wiped out 200 enemy troops, bringing the number of enemy killed or wounded on Oct. 1 to 800.

From Oct. 3 to 6, the P.L.A.F. beat off an operation by 12 enemy battalions aimed at clearing Highway 4 and breaking the encirclement of the U.S. position in Binh Duc.

The heaviest casualties were inflicted on the enemy on Oct. 5: 200 soldiers were wiped out in Cam Son village, south of Highway 4 and 30 km west of My Tho. Another detachment was intercepted in an area 23 km west of My Tho, and lost 100 men.

An enemy operation was foiled in four days: 500 G.I.'s and puppet troops put out of action, 7 helicopters downed, another damaged, 1 M.113 armoured car set ablaze, huge quantities of weapons and war materials seized.

In these battles the people zealously co-ordinated their actions with the P.L.A.F., destroying roads, rounding up ruffians and breaking the enemy's grip.

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HUE

Base of Puppet Armoured Regiment 7 Overrun

AT 1:00 a.m. on Oct. 3, 1967, the P.L.A.F. attacked the base of puppet Armoured Regiment 7 in An Cuu (outskirst of Hue) and shelled many enemy positions in the city, *Giai Phong* Press Agency reported.

After 15 minutes' fighting, the P.L.A.F. entirely wiped out this base, the detachment of tanks and armoured vehicles, the motorized infantry unit, signal centre, the fuel transport and repair workshop, killing or wounding 500 soldiers, destroying 40 tanks and armoured cars, scores of military lorries, 8 blockhouses and many storages.

In the period under review, the P.L.A.F. also shelled the C.P. of puppet Regular Division 1, the police station, the radar station, and the signal center of the U.S. and puppet troops in the city, causing heavy losses to them.

Between Sept. 30 and Oct. 6, 1967, the guerillas in Hue and Quang Tri provinces blew up and damaged 6 bridges on Highway 1 (including a 100m-long bridge, 40km south of Hue, and those linking Hue to Phu Bai and Quang Tri town to Cua Viet).

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CHAU DOC

The Town Stormed and Controlled for Two Hours by P.L.A.F.

ACCORDING to *Giai Phong* Press Agency, in the night of Oct. 12, the P.L.A.F. broke in Chau Doc provincial capital, overran Chau Phu military sector, wiped out enemy troops in the "open arms" service and commando training center, sank 2 L.S.T.s, damaged another, destroyed 2 military lorries and set on fire 1 petrol dump.

The P.L.A.F. controlled the town for 2 hours running and put out of action 100 G.I.'s and cruel agents.

The guerillas from Oct. 1 to 3 foiled an enemy raid on five villages, Tri Ton district, wiping out over 100 soldiers and knocking down 3 planes.

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